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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	/051W		
				-----OB216C 011440Z /38			

P 011438Z DEC 93  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5155  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 04247

YAOUNDE FOR DATT  
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PREF, PREL, PINS, MARR, RW, BY  
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL REGIONAL TENSIONS  
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REF: A) BUJUMBURA 4918 B) KIGALI 4097  
- C) KIGALI 4089 D) KIGALI 4084

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO  
DISCOURAGE PALIPEHUTU ACTIVITY IN REFUGEE CAMPS, BUT  
IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS IS  
BEING ENFORCED. A REPORTED INCURSION BY BURUNDI  
SOLDIERS IS HEIGHTENING TENSION ON RWANDA'S SOUTHERN

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BORDER. END SUMMARY.

3. PRIME MINISTER AGATHE UWILINGIMANA REPLIED 11/28 TO BURUNDI OPPOSITION PARTY CHARGES THAT RWANDA IS PLANNING AN ATTACK AGAINST BURUNDI JOINTLY WITH THE PALIPEHUTU. SHE TOLD BURUNDI REFUGEES DURING A VISIT TO A REFUGEE CAMP IN BUTARE PREFECTURE THAT THEY MUST SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS GOVERNING REFUGEES. RWANDA, SHE SAID, WOULD NEVER ALLOW AN ARMED ATTACK TO BE LAUNCHED FROM ITS TERRITORY AGAINST NEIGHBORING BURUNDI. IN A SUBSEQUENT RADIO INTERVIEW, THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERScoreD THAT RWANDA COULD NEVER REPEAT NEVER TOLERATE AN ATTACK LAUNCHED AGAINST BURUNDI FROM RWANDA. THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF PALIPEHUTU ELEMENTS IN RWANDA, BUT SAID ANY ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES OF A MILITARY NATURE WOULD BE EXPULLED FROM RWANDAN TERRITORY.

4. UNHCR SENT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON NOVEMBER 18 TO  
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THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY IN SOME OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS, CITING CREDIBLE REPORTS ABOUT MILITARY TRAINING IN THE CAMPS. THE NOTE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH ACTIVITY IS CONTRARY TO THE OAU CONVENTION ON REFUGEES AND IT APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA TO ENSURE THAT THE OAU CONVENTION BE RESPECTED. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED CHARGE THAT THIS DIPLOMATIC NOTE, ALTHOUGH MARKED CONFIDENTIAL, IS BEING WIDELY DISTRIBUTED IN BURUNDI.

5. RPF RADIO MUHABURA QUOTED IN FULL THE UNHCR DIPLOMATIC NOTE, SUGGESTING THAT IT GAVE CREDIBILITY TO RUMORS OF PALIPEHUTU ACTIVITY IN RWANDA DESPITE THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT. RADIO MUHABURA WENT SO FAR AS TO IDENTIFY LOCATIONS OF PALIPEHUTU RECRUITMENT CENTERS IN THE REGION SOUTH OF KIGALI AND THE NAMES OF PALIPEHUTU RECRUITERS.

6. EMBASSY RECEIVED DISTURBING REPORT 11/30 FROM AN AMERICAN CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE RWANDAN PROTESTANT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WHICH IS PROVIDING

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NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE TO A SMALL REFUGEE CAMP IN MUYIRA COMMUNE (NORTHERN BUTARE PREFECTURE) RIGHT ON THE BORDER. HE TOLD CHARGE AND VISITING AF/RA MILITARY ADVISOR THAT DURING THE 27-28 NOVEMBER WEEKEND, HE HAD SEEN A GROUP OF ABOUT 30-40 YOUNG MEN AT THE CAMP'S FEEDING CENTER DRESSED IN BRAND NEW CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS, WITH HELMET TYPE HATS, AND CARRYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ONE, HE SAID, HAD A ROCKET LAUNCHER ON HIS SHOULDERS.

7. IN A POSSIBLY RELATED INCIDENT, RADIO RWANDA REPORTED 12/01 THAT A BURUNDI MILITARY PATROL HAD CROSSED INTO RWANDA (NGENDU COMMUNE) AND KILLED TWELVE CIVILIANS CLOSE TO THE FRONTIER. THE RADIO REPORT NOTED THAT THIS INCIDENT FOLLOWED ONE IN WHICH A NUMBER OF TUTSI WERE KILLED BY HUTU CIVILIANS IN THE REGION IN QUESTION. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS INCIDENT AT THIS TIME.

B. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IS RIGHT ON TARGET. THE EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE AMERICAN AID WORKER IS MOST DISTURBING. EMBASSY WILL TRY TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INCIDENT. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PARTICULAR REFUGEE CAMP, MUTUTU, IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST HAVING ONLY 3,000 TO 4,000 PEOPLE IN IT, AND IS NOT FAR FROM ALLEGED PALIPEHUTU RECRUITMENT SITES IN BUGESERA, NOR FROM THE ALLEGED POINT OF INCURSION BY BURUNDI MILITARY ELEMENTS. END COMMENT.

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